

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**FACT SHEET**

NAME CHANGE  
AND  
RENEWAL OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
(NPDES Permit No. CA0005894)  
(I.D. No. 1B77005OHUM)

FOR

SAMOA PACIFIC CELLULOSE, LLC  
SAMOA PULP MILL

Humboldt County

1. Samoa Pulp Mill is located at 1 LP Drive on the north spit of Humboldt Bay adjacent to the community of Samoa, California. The mill produces an average of 700 tons per day of bleached market kraft pulp and discharges an average of 20.0 million gallons per day of wastewater to the Pacific Ocean. The discharge occurs through an outfall that is 8,200 feet long and terminates in 82 feet of water, providing an initial dilution rate of 115:1.
2. Ownership of the Samoa Pulp Mill was transferred from Louisiana-Pacific, Inc. to Samoa Pacific Cellulose, LLC on February 22, 2001.
3. The water supply for the pulp mill is provided by the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District through a direct (no treatment) surface water diversion on the Mad River near Essex. A large pipeline transmits the water supply to the mill. The river water is treated by the mill to remove solids prior to use in the process.
4. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has promulgated new effluent limitations and guidelines known as the "Cluster Rule" (40 CFR Parts 63, 261, and 430 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Category: Pulp and Paper Production; Effluent Limitation Guidelines, Pretreatment Standards, and New Source Performance Standards: Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard Category, Final Rule (63 FR 72 pp. 18503-18751, April 15, 1998). The adopted effluent limitations represent Best Available Economically Achievable ("BAT") for mills that use totally chlorine free ("TCF") bleaching process. The BAT limitations are found in 40 CFR §430.24(a)(2). In addition to BAT standards, mills in the bleached kraft paper-grade subcategory are required to develop and implement a Best Management Practices Plan ("BMPP").

5. The pulp mill produces both unbleached and bleached pulp for use in the manufacture of paper products. Bleached pulp is produced in a totally chlorine free environment using oxygen and hydrogen peroxide as bleaching agents.
6. The pulp mill is in compliance with the “Cluster Rule” primarily because of the elimination of chlorine as a bleaching agent. In addition, the pulp mill has established a BMPP under the existing permit that is substantially the same as that required under the Cluster Rule. This has resulted in reduction in effluent color, biochemical oxygen demand, and total suspended solids. The BMPP has eliminated pulping liquor and chemical spills to the wastewater system. The additions to the permit to conform to the Cluster Rule include an effluent limit and monitoring for adsorbable organic halides (“AOX”).
7. Effluent from the mill is not treated in the traditional sense. The limits contained in the existing permit and the proposed permit are met by inplant controls and pH adjustment.
8. During calendar year 2000, the annual monitoring results showed the mill to be in compliance with permit limits. Total metals and Ocean plan Table B limitations were within permit limits. No dioxins were detected in the effluent. Chronic Toxicity (TUc) as measured using the Red Abalone was well within permit limits.
9. The Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) includes water quality objectives, implementation plans for point source and nonpoint source discharge prohibitions, and statewide plans and policies.
10. The Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan) establishes beneficial uses and water quality objectives for waters of the Pacific Ocean adjacent to the California Coast outside of enclosed bays, estuaries and coastal lagoons. The beneficial uses as listed in the Ocean Plan are:
  - Industrial water supply
  - Water contact recreation
  - Noncontact water recreation
  - Aesthetic enjoyment
  - Navigation
  - Commercial and sport fishing
  - Mariculture
  - Preservation and enhancement of areas of special biological significance
  - Preservation and enhancement of rare and endangered species
  - Marine habitat
  - Fish migration
  - Fish spawning
  - Shellfish harvesting

The specific rationale for the effluent limits contained in the draft permit are:

<u>Constituent or Limitation</u>	<u>Basis for Limitation</u>
BOD5	EPA, Cluster Rule
Total Suspended Solids	EPA, Cluster Rule
Hydrogen Ion	EPA, Cluster Rule
Adsorbable Organic Halides	EPA, Cluster Rule
Chlorine	Ocean Plan
Aquatic life objectives	Ocean Plan
Human health objectives	Ocean Plan
Chronic Toxicity	Ocean Plan
Receiving water limitations	Ocean Plan

11. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding these draft waste discharge requirements (draft NPDES Permit). Comments should be submitted either in person on or before May 24, 2001, to:

Lee Michlin  
Executive Officer  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

If you have specific questions regarding the draft requirements (draft NPDES Permit) please call Emily Dean at (707) 570-3768.

12. A public meeting will be held on June 28, 2001, at the Santa Rosa Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Santa Rosa, California, to consider adoption of the draft waste discharge requirements.

For any additional information or questions in this matter, please contact:

Emily Dean  
Water Resource Control Engineer  
Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Telephone No. (707) 570-3768